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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

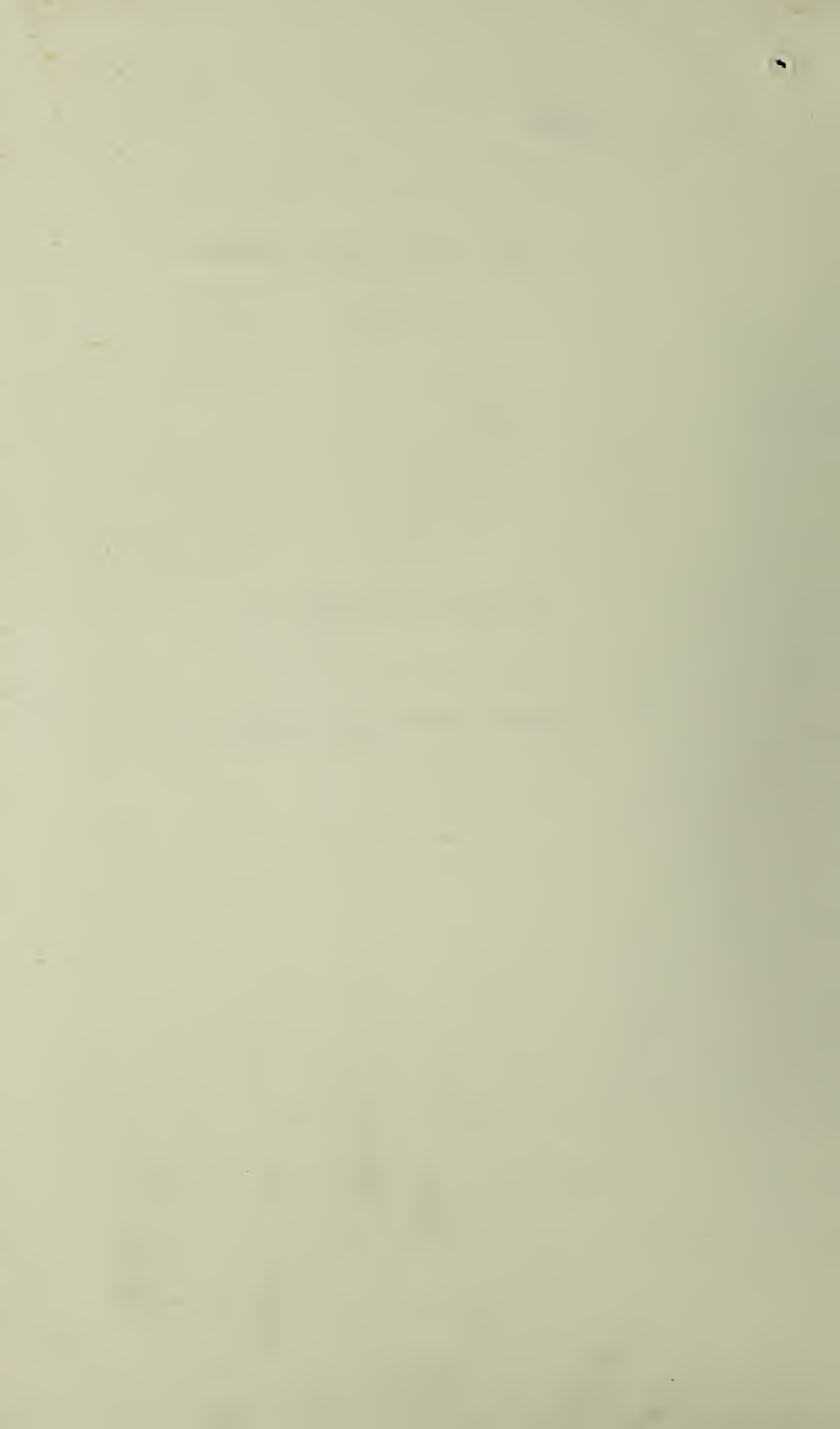


A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H ,

For the Year 1925.



BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1925.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health this Report is more comprehensive than has heretofore been customary, for it includes particulars of Public Health improvements which have been effected during the past five years. It also includes mortality and sickness statistics for that period.

As this is but one of fifteen Reports which I am submitting to as many Authorities its size and scope are necessarily more curtailed than would be the case were I merely acting for a single District.

The subjects dealt with are systematized under the following six headings:-

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Housing.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

1. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	52,420
Population Census, 1921.....	7,283
" Estimated, 1925.....	8,523

Physical Features & General Character of the Area.

The District which extends from the City of Leicester to the Eastern boundary of the County covering an area of 82 sq. miles, consists chiefly of undulating grass land. The geological formation is largely Lower Lias and Limestone passing to Middle and Upper Lias towards the North East. It is drained towards the West by affluents of the river Soar and to the East by tributaries of the Welland. It is essentially agrarian, and with some of the finest grazing land in England.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	1,692
Rateable Value	106,754
Assessable " (for R. D. C.).....	62,180
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£ 259

Social Conditions.

There are 126 registered Dairymen and Milksellers.

There are no factories and no workshops beyond those which are common to all Rural Districts. Of 38 Parishes in the District only seven possess populations of over 300 and nearly half are under 100. Save in the parishes adjoining Leicester which are largely residential in character, and which have rapidly developed during the lustrum the population has been declining for many years.

Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate.	M. 84.	F. 69.	Total - 153
" illegitimate	" <u>6</u>	- <u> </u>	" <u>6</u>
<u>Total:-</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>159</u>
Birth Rate.....			18.5
" " (1921 - 1925).....			16.8
" " for England & Wales (1925)..			18.3
Deaths - M. 38. F. 48.	<u>Total</u> - 86.		
Death Rate			10.0
" " (1921 - 1925).....			10.3
" " for England & Wales (1925)...			12.2



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Vital Statistics (Continued).

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.....	11 (all legitimate)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Births	69
" " " (1921 - 1925)	51
" " " for Eng. & Wales (1925) ..	75

For the period of five years 3.5 per cent of the births were illegitimate.

During 1925 the only death from any of the principal Zymotic Diseases was one from Diarrhoea.

Causes of Death in 1925.

Civilians only.

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
<u>All Causes</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>48</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	-	2
Other tuberculous diseases.....	-	-
Cancer, malignant disease.....	4	11
Diabetes.....	-	1
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.....	1	4
Heart disease.....	7	7
Arterio sclerosis	1	-
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1
Diarrhoea etc. (under 2 yrs.).....	1	-
Cirrhosis of the liver	1	-
Acute and chronic Nephritis.....	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
Other accidents and diseases of preg-) nancy and parturition.	-	2
Congenital debility & malformation....) premature birth.	4	4
Suicide	4	1
Other deaths from violence.....	-	1
Other defined diseases.....	10	9
Causes ill-defined or unknown.....	-	-

II. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council:-

Tuberculosis, Maternity & Children's Hospital accommodation are controlled by the County Council and the matter is dealt with comprehensively in the County Report.

Fever.

There are eight Isolation Hospitals with a total of 85 beds, controlled by the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals' Committee. Patients are sent to such hospitals as have beds available for the disease from which they are suffering. None of the hospitals are in this District.

Small Pox.

There are two hospitals provided for the County as a whole.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For Infectious Cases - Motor ambulances are provided in connection with the Isolation Hospitals.
- (b) For Non-infectious Cases & Accident. None under the District Council. The Leicester Royal Infirmary and other voluntary Organizations provide the necessary facilities.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. All under the County Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

The Medical Officer of Health acts for this and fourteen other Districts in four counties. The Combined Districts cover 500 square miles and have a population of about 120,000. No office or clerical staff is provided.

The Sanitary Inspector, who is also Sanitary Surveyor for the District, devotes the whole of his time to his official duties.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The County Council's Health Visitors visit cases in this District. There are District Nurses at Billesdon, Evington and Great Glenn.

Midwives.

The supervision of Midwives is vested in the County Council.

Chemical Work.

Analyses of foods and drugs are conducted by the County Analyst. The Medical Officer of Health analyses samples of water. Eight samples were analysed during 1925.

Legislation in Force:

Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings have been revised and brought up-to-date. The new code received the sanction of the Ministry of Health on 19th March 1924 and is now in force for the parishes of Bushby, Evington, Humberstone, Scraptoft, Stoughton and Thurnby.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The public supply is laid on to all the parishes adjoining Leicester. For the rest, i.e. for the greater part of the District, the supply is mainly derived from shallow wells. The City water mains are now being laid to the Globe Estate at Humberstone and to houses on Scraptoft Lane.

Rivers and Streams.

As the largest parishes, Evington and Humberstone, are now connected with the Leicester City sewers and as there are no trade-effluents in the whole of the District there are not many instances of definite pollution of the brooks. The sewage at Hungarton is treated by land irrigation and in most other instances it is small in quantity and undergoes considerable

purification in dykes or ditches before reaching watercourses, if indeed it goes so far. At Billesdon and at Thurnby there is however direct pollution and also at Great Glenn, though there the sewage is tanked.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Particulars concerning the principal parishes are included in the subjoined synopsis.

The outstanding improvements which we have to record are the provision of a sewerage scheme for the greater part of Evington and of a scheme for the greater part of the parish of Humberstone where the rapid development of a residential estate had led to numerous nuisances from overflowing cesspools. Both parishes are now drained by gravitation to the Leicester City sewers.

I am of opinion that Thurnby and the adjoining part of Bushby and Evington should now be provided with a sewerage scheme, in so far as the sewage from this area can be dealt with by gravitation. Recent building and the prospect of further development render this provision increasingly desirable.

Under this heading the work of the Sanitary Inspector during 1925 merits special notice:-

Drains, drain traps &c.	No. inspected	379
	Nuisances abated	100
Cesspools	No. repaired, cleansed &c.	467 cleansed by scavengers.
	" abolished & drains connected to sewer) 176

Properly trapped street-gullies have been provided at Houghton in lieu of old brick gullies.

Closet Accommodation:-

Approx. No. in District	(1) Privies	440
	(2) Pail closets	960
	(3) Water closets	600
Privies (middens)	No. of new provided	nil
	No. repaired	nil
	No. converted to (a) pails	nil
	(b) W.C's	nil

Closet Accommodation (Cont.):-

Pails or earth closets	No. of new provided	3
	No. converted to W.C's	nil
Water closets	No. of new provided	80

The Ministry requests that this Report should indicate whether conversion of privies to pail-closets or water-closets is proceeding on any definite policy with a view to the ultimate abolition of insanitary types of privy accommodation. In common with all sanitarians with whose opinion we are acquainted I take the view that all privy-pits are insanitary. They are an anachronism and should be abolished in all villages where public scavenging is available.

For many years I have advocated that all villages with over forty inhabited houses should be provided with public scavenging of night soil and refuse, for I regard this as a condition precedent to the effective abolition of insanitary pits. This advice has long since been adopted in some parishes, but not in others. In so far as our records show, only six pits have been converted during the past five years.

(Synopsis over)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MORE POPULOUS PARISHES.

PARISH (with Census popula- tion.	Water Supply	Nature of Sewers	No. of Outfalls	Dist. from Outfalls to Brook.	Degree of Pollution of Brook.	Approximate No. of Privies	Approximate No. of Pail Closets	W.C.'s	System of Scavenging
Billesdon (514)	Wells	Socket pipes Tiles & brick	1	Direct	Definite	-	112 Nearly all	4	Public Scavenger.
Burton Overy (311)	"	"	2	Long Distance	Slight	-	65	5	"
Evington (1072)	Leicester City & wells	All being sewer- ed & connected to City Main	1	Ditto & to City sewers.	Some	-	79	150	"
Great Glenn (763)	Wells	Chiefly socket Pipes.	1	Direct from tanks.	Definite	-	365 Chiefly	5	"
Houghton (317)	"	"	4	Long dis.	Slight	12	80%	6	Partly Scavenged.
Hungarton (385)	"	"	1	300 yds. Land irri- gation	Not notice- able	Chiefly			By occupiers
Humberstone (847)	Leicester City	Most of Parish now properly sewered	-	To L'ster City sew- ers	-	-	74	Chief- ly.	Public Scavenger
Tilton & Halstead (321)	Wells.	Chiefly socket pipes.	2	Long dis- tance	Not notice- able.	Chiefly			By occupiers
Thurnby & Bushby (435)	L'ster City & wells.	"	2	1 direct 1 half a mile	Definite			Chief- ly in Bushby	"

Sanitary Inspection of the Area 1925.

Total number of complaints received during the year....	150
" " " inspections made for all purposes.....	726
" " " notices served - 38. Informal - 29. Statutory - 9.	
" " " summonses issued	nil

Insanitary Houses (Public Health Act, 1875)

No. inspected - 3. No. cleansed - 1

Smoke Nuisances:-

No. of observations - 0. Nuisances abated - 0.

Overcrowding:-

No. of houses inspected - 4. " " - 4

Offensive accumulations:-

No. inspected - 2. " " - 2

Scavenging:-

How is refuse disposed of? Deposited on land tips.

Ashpits	No. of new provided	nil
	No. converted to ashbins	2

Ashbins	No. of new provided	20
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Infectious Diseases:-

Houses	No. inspected	33
	No. of inspections	57

No. disinfected	(a) Houses	48
	(b) Schoolrooms	-

A steam disinfecter is available.

Other details of Sanitary Inspection are included under the various headings. A great deal of the Inspector's time has been devoted to the abolition of cess-tanks and the connecting of 170 house drains with the sewers. He has, moreover, inspected most of the temporary dwellings - chiefly in Humberstone and Scraptoft - which were erected after the war when building bye-laws were suspended, and which are still occupied.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations:-

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District and no Offensive Trades have been established. There are no Canal Boats.

Schools.

For many years I have made systematic and detailed reports on all, or nearly all, the Public Elementary Schools in the Combined Districts. There are about 160 such schools and year by year great improvements, chiefly in cleanliness ventilation and general sanitation, have accrued in many of them. I now inspect them only as required. Speaking generally the schools in the Billesdon District are by no means below the average for country schools and some of them are excellent.

IV. HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions:-

Speaking generally the housing conditions are neither below nor above the average for agricultural Rural Districts. Save in the parishes adjoining Leicester and perhaps in a few others the population has for many years been decreasing. When the Census was taken there were only about a dozen cases of definite overcrowding in the whole District. Building has consequently been at a standstill in all save the parishes near Leicester. There it has gone on apace and in the parishes of Humberstone a number of unsightly rather than insanitary temporary dwellings have been erected.

Houses are needed and in some instances badly needed by persons employed in Leicester who have come into adjoining parishes, and at Great Glenn houses are needed for a similar reason, the persons in this case being employed at Fleckney in the adjoining Rural District of Market Harborough. It is not reasonable to ask an Authority to build for persons employed in other Districts.

What is needed in this, as in most similar Rural Districts, is "re-conditioning", and herein lies the finest field for State assistance and for County or District assistance in connection

with rural housing. What we have to bear in mind is that, save in respect of persons employed in other Districts or their equivalent, the actual number of houses is ample or nearly ample so that we need not add to their number in any parish in which for the same or a smaller outlay the existing houses can be brought up to modern standards of comfort and habitability. A subsidy is needed, and badly needed, for the sanitary and internal modernization of many of your rural houses without impairing the picturesque.

As for building, my advice is that private enterprise should be encouraged to the uttermost by offering a subsidy of £100 instead of £75.

1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- (a) Total 57
- (b) With State assistance under the
Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 or 1924.
 - {1} By Local Authority..... nil
 - {2} By other bodies or persons..... 47

1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.

- Inspection - (1) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 45
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected & recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910. 22
- (3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. nil
- (4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 22

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 8

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning etc., Act, 1919.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. | 7 |
| (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices - by owners. | 4 |
| (3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative &c. | nil. |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts. nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 & 18 of the Housing, Town Planning etc., Act, 1909. nil.

V. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

With over a hundred wholesale producers sending to London, Leicester and elsewhere the milk of some 2,500 cows it will be realized that systematic Veterinary inspection of herds is most important. This is now done and I would ask you to again take advantage of the facilities offered by the County Council for the bacteriological examination of milk samples with a view to enhancing and controlling cleanliness in every stage of production and distribution.

The Sanitary Inspector submits the following particulars for the year:-

<u>Retail Purveyors</u>	(a) Register - No. on	21
	(b) Premises - Total No. of insps.	18
	No. of contraventions found	6
	No. found to require -	
	(1) Cleansing	3
	(2) Structural or sanitary improvements.	3
<u>Wholesale Traders and Producers.</u>	(a) Register - No. on	105
	(b) Premises - No. of inspections	
	(1) Total	54
	(2) During milking time	5
	No. of contraventions found	4
	No. found to require -	
	(1) Cleansing	2
	(2) Structural or san. imprs.	2
Total No. of Milch cows in District (estimated)		2520
Legal Proceedings - nil.		

Meat:-

There are six slaughter-houses in the District, one less than at the beginning of 1925. In 1920 there were seven. The slaughter-houses are on the whole kept in a cleanly and satisfactory condition, and in addition to seven special inspections of premises 22 visits were made at time of slaughter. There is no difficulty in carrying out the order with regard to these inspections.

Four parcels of diseased meat were surrendered during the year, and the carcase of one bullock was condemned by reason of its being tuberculous.

Other Foods:-

There are eight Bakehouses on the Register. They are maintained in a cleanly and satisfactory condition.

VI. PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1925 were as follows:-

	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	<u>Diphtheria.</u>	<u>Erysipelas.</u>	<u>Ophthalmia Neonatorum</u>
Burton Overy	3	-	-	-
Bushby	2	1	-	-
Evington	3	1	-	-
Great Glenn	6	-	-	-
Humberstone	3	-	1	1
Manfield	-	3	-	-
Newton Harcourt	-	3	-	-
Scraptoft	1	-	-	-
Tilton	-	1	-	-
Thurnby	3	-	-	-
<u>Total:-</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

None of these cases proved fatal.

Seven cases of Diphtheria and ten cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Isolation Hospitals.

The Tuberculosis Record for the year is as follows:-

Age-Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Other forms.		Respiratory		Other forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 & under 10 yrs.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 " " 25 "	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 " " 35 "	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " 45 "	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
<u>Total:-</u>	4	8	-	-	-	2	-	-

The notifications of Infectious Diseases received during each of the past five years were as follows:-

Disease.	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total	Admitted to Hosptl.	Deaths
Diphtheria	5	9	1	9	9	33	26	1
Scarlet Fever	11	9	9	3	21	53	20	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Encephalitis) Lethargica)	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	1
Puerperal F.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Erysipelas	-	2	-	1	1	4	-	-
Respiratory) Tuberculosis)	-	3	2	6	12	23	10	19
Other forms) of Tubercu-) losis)	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	1
Ophthalmia) Neonatorum)	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-

For the five years under review the Attack Rate (i.e. the average annual number of cases per thousand of the population) from Diphtheria is 0.84 and the Attack Rate from Scarlet Fever is 1.36. The corresponding rates for England & Wales are 1.29 and 2.65. The death-rate from Tuberculosis is 0.51 per 1,000

about half the average for the country as a whole.

In connection with the control of Infectious Diseases the following particulars of examinations during 1925 are submitted by the County Bacteriologist:-

Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli.....	20
Throat swabs for diphtheria.....	18
Hairs for Ringworm.....	3
Film for Gonococci.....	1
Urine (general & bacteriological)..	1
Sewage and water analyses.....	2

<u>Total:-</u>	45
	<u>=</u>

Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

Workshops	No. on register (to include bakehouses)	49
	No. of nuisances abated	-
Homework	No. of outworkers	4
Legal proceedings	No. of summonses issued.	nil
1. <u>Inspection:-</u>		
	Workshops Inspections	6
	(including Workshop Written notices	nil
	Laundries)	
2. <u>Defects.</u>	Found	nil

There is a laundry at Great Glenn. With this exception there are no factories or workshops in the District save such of the latter as are common to all Rural Districts of similar character. No instance of outwork on unwholesome premises has come under observation.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. O'CONNOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kirby Muxloe,

Nr. Leicester.

June 2nd, 1926.

